



Architecture and Preservation in Havana, Cuba
A Trip Sponsored Utah Heritage Foundation
April 3-9, 2016

Utah Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce its first program in celebration of the organization's 50th Anniversary in 2016 – *Architecture and Preservation in Havana, Cuba*.

Cuba has often been referred to as a land lost in time. 1957 Chevys still cruise the streets and Havana neighborhoods display buildings representing over five centuries of rich heritage. The salt, humidity, and hurricanes have no doubt taken their toll on these architectural masterpieces, but time has made it more evident that the buildings are in need of serious repair. The Cuban government has been working diligently to rehabilitate these buildings, but it's a massive undertaking that's been made even more difficult due to the U.S. embargo.

Historic preservation has become a key strategy and innovative tool for the revitalization and sustainable economic development of distressed urban neighborhoods of Havana and rural areas in Cuba. These examples provide models for the revitalization and sustainable development of urban and rural areas in other economically challenged areas of the world, including the United States.

Friday, August 14, 2015 marked the grand reopening ceremony for the U.S. embassy in Havana. Progress in normalizing relations with Cuba is quickly being made and changes to the landscape are inevitable. Although only ninety miles of ocean separate us from Havana, it sometimes feels like we are worlds apart. However, we can find commonality with the Cuban people through our desire to preserve our architectural legacy. What will the progress between Washington, D.C. and Cuba mean for Havana's 500 years of architectural history? The embargo has created hardship but it has also prevented modern urbanization that would have likely destroyed many buildings.

The Board of Trustees invites you to join Utah Heritage Foundation on a unique excursion to see firsthand the historic architecture and its preservation of Havana while experiencing the art, cuisine, music, and culture Cuba's capital city on the precipice of change.

Details

Limited Availability: There are up to 23 slots available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Registration: Priority registration between August 15 and September 30, 2015 is available to members and donors of Utah Heritage Foundation. After September 30, registration will be open to the general public. If you are not currently a member or donor but would like to have access to priority registration, all you need to do is become a member or donor. To become a member, [visit this page on our website](#), or to make a donation [go here](#). Either can be also be done by calling our office at (801) 533-0858.

Deposit: A \$500 per person deposit in the form of a tax deductible donation is required to Utah Heritage Foundation in order to register. Checks can be made payable to Utah Heritage Foundation and mailed to Utah Heritage Foundation, 375 N. Canyon Rd., Salt Lake City, UT 84103. Credit cards can be used by [visiting this page on our website](#) and making your deposit(s).

Payment Schedule: There are two payments due for this trip: 1) \$500 deposit to Utah Heritage Foundation (see above), and 2) payment of \$3,725 to WorldGuest by December 15, 2015.

What Is Not Included: There are three items not included in your program cost that will be your responsibility:

- 1) Airfare to and from Miami
- 2) Some meals in Havana
- 3) Hotel in Miami after returning to the mainland on April 9

Travel Documents: Our host provider, WorldGuest, will be arranging for our visas to travel to Cuba. They are a licensed provider of educational travel outings to Cuba and have hosted numerous historic preservation organizations around the country on their trips. *You are required to have a valid passport in order to obtain a visa to Cuba.*

Questions or Need Assistance? Call our office at (801) 533-0858

Resources

DVD/FILM - Unfinished Spaces, 2013

BOOK - Revolution of Forms: Cuba's Forgotten Art Schools by John Loomis, 2011

BOOK - Havana before Castro: When Cuba was a Tropical Playground by Peter Moruzzi, 2008

BOOK - The Havana Guide: Modern Architecture 1925-1965 by Eduardo Luis Rodriguez, 2000

PERIODICAL - Inside the New Cuba, Time Magazine Special Edition, 2015

WEBSITE - [Take a tour of Havana's Modern Architecture](#) (Full link -

http://curbed.com/archives/2015/05/01/a-tour-of-havanas-modern-architecture.php?utm_campaign=issue-36764&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Curbed)

Background

Historic preservation has become the leading player for the revitalization of the local economy and urban neighborhoods in Cuba's capital city, Havana. Here, the Office of the City Historian (Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad de la Habana) has developed a comprehensive strategy to manage safeguarding the old city and adjacent areas.

Rather than accepting just a watchdog role, documenting heritage resources and encouraging the preservation of key threatened historic landmarks through advocacy and regulation (a

common model for governmental preservation offices and nonprofit groups in the United States), the Office of the City Historian in Havana has moved through additional stages of organizational development and public influence since its founding in 1938.

After documenting important heritage sites and saving several of the city's most endangered landmarks, in the early 1980s the Office of the City Historian commenced a fifteen year project to restore the 1778-1835 government house and palace, the *Palacio de los Capitanes Generales*. This

building now serves as a museum, educational center and the organization's headquarters.

In 1981, the Cuban government provided the Office of the City Historian with start-up funding to invest in the historic center of Havana. Through a series of five-year plans, key historic monuments, fortifications and several city squares have been restored following international preservation standards. Forty buildings were rehabilitated in the first ten years.

Many of these projects now generate revenues that are reinvested in new rehabilitation projects. Through several agreements with Cuba's Council of Ministers, the Office of the City Historian was granted special legal powers to promote sustainable development within a priority zone for preservation in Havana by developing relations with national and foreign entities, entering into economic partnerships, and charging taxes on productive companies to fund rehabilitation.

This, coupled with the declaration of the Historic Center of the City of Havana as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1982 and the severe economic consequences of the fall of the European socialist block, helped to propel the Office of the City Historian into taking a leading role in the rehabilitation and sustainable development of the city.

Many neighborhoods are extremely overcrowded and even basic services like running water are lacking due to the severely deteriorated public infrastructure. The rehabilitation work has not been limited to the redevelopment of old buildings, but has also supported the social needs of inhabitants of Old Havana and the surrounding areas of the city.

The Office of the City Historian also supports schooling, social, cultural and recreational services with a staff of trained educators, psychologists and health care workers. Their top priorities include satisfying the needs of the most vulnerable social groups and to improve the quality of housing as well as provide cultural and recreational services

for the neighborhood residents. Their preservation projects in Old Havana include the rehabilitation of historic churches into concert halls, the establishment of a public library and music conservatory, and an old person's residence and senior citizens hotel. Grandparents clubs have been organized by hospitals in the area to help provide senior citizens with daily attention and activities. A maternal-infant center and a care facility for children with degenerative illnesses such as Downs Syndrome have been established in rehabilitated older buildings. The Office of the City Historian also provides cultural programming for children and teens in the arts, dance, theatre, patrimony, literature and ecology.

To avoid negative impacts of gentrification, neighborhood residents are involved in the process of planning and working on projects. A central goal is to minimize the displacement of residents from neighborhoods. The city historian's office runs a workshop school for young people between 18 and 21 years of age, training several hundred of them over the past ten years to become qualified to work as masons, carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians, and gardeners involved in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings. On graduation from this restoration trades school, students have the opportunity to work for one of the two construction companies established by the Office of the City Historian.

The evidence of the level of investment in preservation is obvious as one walks through Old Havana and the adjacent neighborhoods. Many of the key landmark buildings surrounding the main squares have been rehabilitated to provide housing, offices, tourist facilities and social services while new water lines and street lighting were installed across Old Havana and in the San Isidro and Malecon neighborhoods.

ARCHITECTURE & PRESERVATION IN HAVANA TODAY



An exclusive program for the Utah Heritage Foundation: April 3 to 9, 2016

A RECOMMENDATION

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation recently traveled to Havana with WorldGuest and we were absolutely delighted with the experience. The itinerary was custom designed for our group and we had several highly informative lecturers speak to us to bring key insight and expand our appreciation of Cuban art and architecture. The travel details were handled very well and I would highly recommend WorldGuest to my colleagues.

Mark C McDonald

President and CEO
Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Our program offers an overnight in Miami at the [Marriott Courtyard Hotel](#) and five nights at the [5-Star Hotel Parque Central](#) in Havana, located within the Old Quarter, within walking distance to all of the important historical sites.



- Travel in our private air conditioned coach with your English-speaking Cuban guide.
- Program features talks by English-speaking Cuban experts on: the [Restoration in Old Havana](#); [Colonial Havana](#); [Modern Havana](#), [Cuban Interiors](#) and [Modern and Contemporary Art in Cuba](#).
- Visit Havana's masterpiece, the [Institute of Superior Art \(ISA\)](#) and examples of mid-century private homes and grand hotels.
- Visits [José Fuster's](#) artist home/studio for lunch and enjoy dinner at a private home, a [paladar](#). Our restaurants are chosen to offer our travelers a variety of Cuban cuisine and dining experiences.
- Visit [Hemingway Estate](#) outside Havana.
- Program includes health insurance.

ITINERARY 7 Days / 6 Nights

Day 1: (Sunday) MIAMI
Independent flight to Miami. Overnight at the Courtyard Miami Airport Hotel. At check-in you will receive complete instructions for departure for the airport. Independent dinner. Overnight at the Marriott Courtyard Airport Hotel.

Day 2: (Monday) MIAMI TO HAVANA
We will meet you and travel to the airport for check-in and your flight to Havana. All travel documents, visas and flight tickets, will be distributed at the airport check-in. Flight to Havana. Arrive in Havana, meet your English-speaking Cuban guide. Enjoy an orientation coach tour *en route* to the Hotel Parque Central in Old Havana. At the hotel, join us for an orientation lunch as your luggage is brought to your room. Join your guide on an orientation coach tour of Havana. Our first seminar discusses the Restoration efforts in Old Havana by an English-speaking Cuban expert. Welcome cocktails at an artist studio followed by dinner at a private home. Overnight at the Hotel Parque Central. | Meals L D

Day 3: (Tuesday) HAVANA
Seminar on Colonial Havana followed by walking tour of Havana Vieja (a special guide pamphlet will be distributed) begins at the Plaza de Armas, on to the Palacio de los Capitanes Generales ending with a horse and carriage ride through the Old Quarter. Lunch in Old Havana. Balance of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner is independent to try many of the fine new restaurants that have opened in Havana. Overnight at the Hotel Parque Central. | Meals B L

Day 4: (Wednesday) HAVANA
Enjoy an informative talk on Modern Havana by a published expert. Continuing on to visit to several examples of 1950's architecture, including the famous Hotel Riviera and the ill-fated Havana Hilton and the neighborhood of Vedado. Lunch at the famous El Aljibe restaurant, best known for its *Cuban Creole* menu of chicken and rice and beans served family style under a thatched covered-open air restaurant. Continue to the campus of the Institute of Superior Art (ISA) with an architect involved in the current restoration efforts. Visit a charity to deliver humanitarian donations. Free afternoon with independent dinner.

OPTIONAL: Tropicana Night Club.
Overnight at the Hotel Parque Central. | Meals B L

Day 5: (Thursday) HAVANA
Breakfast at our hotel. Seminar on Cuban Interiors. Depart for a survey of private homes, including the Museum of Decorative Arts and Casa Vedado (a restored 19th century home complete with antiques of the period). Independent lunch at the Hotel Nacional de Cuba. Following lunch we travel to *Finca Vigía* to visit the Hemingway Estate. The home is preserved exactly as he left it in 1960 complete with his hunting trophies and personal items. Free afternoon in Old Havana for independent exploration. This evening's dinner is at one of Hemingway's favorite hangouts, La Bodguita del Medio. Overnight at the Hotel Parque Central. | Meals B D

Day 6: (Friday) HAVANA
Breakfast at our hotel. Seminar on modern and contemporary Cuban art. Survey examples at the Museum of Fine Art. Lunch will be at an artist's studio outside Havana. Balance of the afternoon at leisure. Farewell dinner is at one of Havana's finest restaurants, Café del Oriente. Overnight at the Hotel Parque Central. | Meals B L D

Day 7: (Saturday) HAVANA TO MIAMI
Breakfast at our hotel. This morning we a visit the grandiose [Colon Cemetery](#) containing monuments and statues created by some of the most prominent artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Return flight to Miami and home. Our return flight is scheduled to arrive in Miami at 4:45pm | Meals B

PROGRAM DATES & RATES

Program dates are April 3 to 9, 2016. (7 Days/6 Nights). The rate in Double Occupancy is **\$4,225.00** per person. Single supplement is available on a wait-list basis. Add \$355.00. The program rate includes a \$500 donation to the Utah Heritage Foundation.

Program includes hotels in Miami and Havana; airport transfers; flights between Miami and Havana; private air-conditioned coach and local guide throughout; meals as indicated; all gratuities and the complete program and seminars as described. Flights to/from Miami are not included. Cuban Travel Card (Visa), Cuban medical insurance and Departure Tax are provided. Each participant will receive a letter authorizing travel to Cuba under U.S. government rules.

Please refer to our Reservation & Guest Information Form for more details.



Program is operated by WorldGUEST and is licensed to travel to Cuba.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Kirk Huffaker | kirk@utahheritagefoundation.org | 801.533.0858